

Meetings Scheduled For Crop Insurance Problems

By Susan Pieper

Colorado's Fourth Congressional District congresswoman, Marilyn Musgrave, has asked USDA Risk Management Agencies (RMA) officials to come to her district to address insurance issues growers and insurance agents have with Prevented Plant crop policies. These insurance policies are designed to help farmers recoup some of their crop losses. The premise behind these policies has to do, at least in the lower Arkansas Valley, with providing financial assistance on a crop that was lost due to drought or other natural disasters.

Farmers in this area, according to several agricultural agencies, have had to plant their crops in recent years before the availability of irrigation water was known. Musgrave, according to a press release from her office, held meetings with several people connected with the risk management agency and invited them to her district and specifically the Arkansas Valley.

In her meetings with Eldon Gould, administrator of Risk Management Agency and manager of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Musgrave convinced him to send teams in the next few weeks to address the problems with the insurance policies. Reportedly, RMA officials will send two teams to Musgrave's district to meet with producers, canal companies, insurance company claim representatives and Colorado water authorities.

Although no definite date or location has been released, it was reported one of the teams would be in Rocky Ford this week.

Other people with whom Musgrave met regarding the policies included James Callan, associate administrator of Risk Management Agency; William Murphy, deputy administrator for insurance services at Risk Management Agency and Bill O'Conner, staff director of the House Committee on Agriculture.